

**REMARKS**

This Supplemental Amendment is being submitted in order to replace the Listing of Claims previously submitted in the Amendment filed on December 2, 2004. Claims 1-22, 28-30, 32-37 and 39-42 have been previously cancelled, and claims 23-27, 31 and 38 are currently pending. It is Applicants' belief that all rejections have respectfully been traversed.

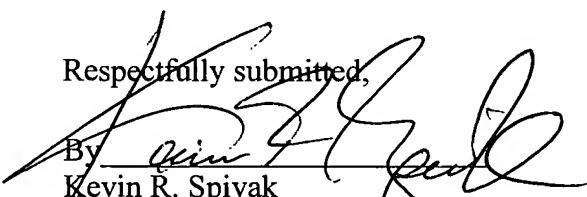
Claims 23-27, 31 and 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The claims have been rewritten in independent form to remove the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, and to incorporate the base and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 449122024200. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 27, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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